



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Ashby et al  
SERIAL NO.: 09/960,389  
FILING DATE: 09/24/01  
TITLE: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING HEMOSTASIS  
OF A BIOPSY TRACT  
EXAMINER: Baxter, Jessica R.  
ART UNIT: 3731

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class  
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Name:

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**MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE**  
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Alexandria VA 22313-1450

**APPLICANT'S COMMENTS ON REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

These comments are responsive to the Notice of Allowance mailed on  
September 8, 2004, which sets forth the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The Examiner is thanked for the kind allowance of all pending claims 1-10 and 24.  
Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance as set forth in  
the Notice of Allowance. However, Applicants point out that the reasons for allowability  
of the above referenced claims are not limited to the reasons for allowance as set forth in  
the Notice of Allowance, and that additional reasons for allowability may exist, each of


which may be independently sufficient to establish the patentability of one or more pending claims.

Applicants respectfully reserve the right to introduce, articulate, or otherwise comment on any such additional reasons for allowance as may be appropriate in any future proceedings concerning the claimed invention.

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment to our deposit account number 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,  
THELEN REID & PRIEST LLP

Dated: December 07, 2004



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